

Lapoint Utah
June 22, 1931



George M. Bacon, Engineer
State of Utah
State Capitol Building
Salt Lake City, Utah

Dear Sir:

State Engineer's Office

In replying to a letter written by Paul F. Henderson, Engineer Irrigation Project, Myton Utah, in answer to a letter written by C. A. Thompson, bearing date May 29, 1931, regarding irrigation water distribution this season. It might be well to explain more in detail the statement regarding waste in water distribution and use. Mr. Henderson and Mr. Colton need not have applied it all to themselves. Mr. Thompson in his statement meant all concerned--the users as well as distributors--Whiterocks people included.

I make the statement that if all the water here this year had been properly distributed and used there would have been no lands bearing useful crops but could have had one irrigation at least. As it is there is a number of acres had no water.

There are others who will support the statement, those who are educated to the needs of these lands.

I don't appreciate the statement Mr. Henderson makes regarding water being a gift from the Government because the government happens to be in a position to claim so much duty. I don't consider rights. All educated people know that there is a great waste in the use of water here: not only waste but destruction to the lands and crops.

Lands and vegetation life can be drowned the same as animal life and, by some, that is being done by wholesale. I say it is criminal. We all know that the lands here are now full of water under the surface. You can't dig a well here without coming in contact with surface water. All the lands need is the water rushed over it then moved. That is the way we use the water when we can get it on our property here at Lapoint. When Mr. Thompson is engaged at other work I take the shovel and see the water is moving, and not allowed to destroy lands and crops. The results are plain to be seen.

I think engineers should be educated regarding these lands and their needs as to water, and use water accordingly. This year is an exceptional year. The lands don't require the water this year it did last.

We observed last year the grass burned on the ditch bank and w water in the ditch- this year the vegetation in the fields that have been cultivated are doing very nicely. Were it not for the wevel the alfalfa would be exceptional.

I don't think that an engineer ^{competent} should complain without a know-

ledge of conditions. While passing a place watered by government water about two weeks ago we noticed the water was through the length of grain rows and crossing the road. It should have been moved to another place. Approximately six hours later we came by the same place--the water was yet running in the same place and washing the lands. Another party informed us that he knew where the water run from Wednesday until Saturday in one place on grain and had not all gotten through.

This is waste of the worst kind. Some of the land and crops drowned--the others thirsty. Another happening under our observation, a man who has lands under Whiterocks Irrigation system was watering it with water from W. S. Deepcreek canal. While our Whiterocks canal was running culinary water.

I have land that could be watered by ^uW. S. Deepcreek canal. What arrangements can I make at the office for water to use on this land?

I think if some responsible could condescend to talk and advise with the farmers, some of whom could explain conditions, much water could be used to better advantage.

Regarding the 13 $\frac{1}{2}$ second feet for Whiterocks Mr. Henderson failed to state the amount of water that returned to main channel of river above diversion of Deepcreek canal. The 135 second feet Mr. Thompson was estimating at the West bridge after the Whiterocks River had entered the Uintah River. Mr. Thompson claims, yet, his estimate was under the amount if any difference. In your statement regarding the 120 second feet on that particular day being amount in river, you included the Farm Creek which diversion so I am told is above the U. S. G. G. gource.

You also give the impression that U. S. Deepcreek canal was drawing its amout. Only one ~~canal~~ ^{canal} had water in it above break in canal. The remaining canal was empty being repaired. The Whiterocks canal had 10 second feet in it on that day according to Glenn Reed's statement. Reed's authority being Cloward.

According to Mr Henderson or Colton's extimate, if Uintah River was carrying its amount in porportion to its capacity as compared with Whiterocks river You'll discover Mr. Thompson's estimation is not exaggerated.

One of the government employee's remarked in our presence that he heard Mr. Henderson give B. O. Colton (while at the break in Deepcreek Canal) order to send the water down the lower government canals to be used while break in the Deepcreek was being repaired. He spoke of B. O. Colton being on the job. Yes, we are acquainted with him--have been for thirty years.

One thing Mr. Colton has been doing this season is ordering all the culinary water turned to Ouray Valley people (consisting of about 16 families) four days a week and three days to the Whiterocks people -100 families or more. The defendant canal Companies this year are adding more expense by adding advisory Board and executive Committee. Some more on the job. and so it will continue--. One of the great evils to day is too

many on the job getting their bread through the sweat of the other fellows brow. It has gone to the extreme.

Concerning an agreement between settlers and Indian service regarding distribution of water, I find no written agreement in secretary office at Roosevelt. Mr. Colton has not made a reply at present date to letter written May 29, 1931 by C. A. Thompson.

I deem it my right to answer Mr. Henderson's letter to Mr. Thompson. I take it a part applies to me. We have lived here in this Reservation for about twenty five years, and have seen the building and know something about pioneering.

This year in noticing the amount of snow on the mountain while we were cut to culinary water, and W. S. Deepcreek canal being repaired. We felt something was wrong in the way the water was being handled. Mr. Thompson realized it to be a hard days ride to make an investigation hesitated so I encouraged him to go.

Well I hope good will come of it. I believe if you had lived as we have for twenty years in suspense just on account of the water situation you would feel as we feel.

This water situation has made a veritable hell for us.

I have shouldered my load by Mr. Thompson's side in subduing this parched deseret country. We have built a fairly comfortable home and are out of debt. But to continue and live longer in a life of suspense due mostly to negligence of man I am almost ready to say to all -go back to your primitive state, what you once were, a roaming Indians, wigwams, sage brush and shadscale and we will seek a home in another land.

I repeat again, up to the present had all concerned in the distribution and proper use of water here in this locality not wasted the water all could have had sufficient water.

Had this been done there would be less incentive to build mote reservoirs, which thing is not popular for some.

I note Mr. Henderson carries the name of the great Gentile Apostile. May he go down in history doing some of the works of that great man.

Respectfully,

Mr. & Mrs. C. A. Thompson